



**Sustainable Arlington  
An Environment Committee of Envision Arlington**

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020  
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 PM  
Location: Remote participation via Zoom

In attendance: Ezekiel Wheeler, Amos Meeks, Kelly Lynema, Brucie Moulton, Sarah Hill, Monique Ouimette, Gina Sonders, Len Diggins, Kristen Fritsch, Gail McCormick

**Minutes**

**1. Introductions**

**2. Update from Planning Department**

- Three forums in early to mid dec.
- December 1, residential design guidelines. 7pm
- December 8th forum on the economic analysis of industrial zoning districts. One of the things they are looking at is how to introduce sustainability concepts in any industrial redevelopment.
- Mid December, connect Arlington forum, survey out now. They have developed recommendations and want input on how to prioritize them.
- Will be another Net Zero Action plan forum sometime in December or beginning of January.

**3. John Root invites Sustainable Arlington to co-sponsor his application to the Arlington Cultural Council for a presentation of “Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees, and Other Beneficials”**

Did not join the meeting.

**4. Approve October minutes**

October minutes available here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10Hsk0sgLiS\\_vUmLkeg74XYgqCKkOiqHi/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10Hsk0sgLiS_vUmLkeg74XYgqCKkOiqHi/view?usp=sharing)

Unanimously approved with minor modification

**5. Warrant Article 5, Fossil Fuel Free Infrastructure: debrief, next steps.**

Lots of next options: gas cooking, BBRS building code, Net Zero Action plan, resolutions, green zoning.

**6. Report on development of Mass. Pollinator Network based at NOFA Mass**

- Settled into a routine of monthly meetings on the second Tuesday evenings. Connecting with other groups around the state.
- They are bringing in speakers and creating informational materials.

- Learned about Western MA pollinator network with NOFA mass to create a statewide program to support native pollinators. They are currently fundraising to have a paid full time position. They will provide information, updates on state legislation, and help local groups avoid reinventing the wheel.
- There is interest in working with the Town on helping native pollinators and reducing pesticide use. Will contact the town environmental planner and form a subgroup. Contact Brucie if interested:

#### **7. Choose new Sustainable Arlington mailing list (Yahoo Groups ends in Dec.)**

Several people support google groups.

#### **8. Sustainable Arlington leadership planning, next year focus**

Brucie and Amos are stepping down as co-chairs. Will still be around. Timeline is fluid, but ideally new chair/co-chairs by January.

#### **9. Annual Town Survey – questions for 2021**

Set on three topics: diversity equity and inclusion, performance of town services during COVID-19, community wellness check (health and human services, oriented CDBG and HUD money, meeting needs of businesses and residents). Survey has to go live by first of Jan.

#### **10. New business**

- A number of things going on to help with electrification of trucking. Ezekiel reached out to MassCEC (Jade Lu, jlu@masscec.org)
- A lot of the discussion overlooks smaller businesses and municipalities. This puts maybe too much focus on long haul trucking, rather than smaller distance trips.
- This also relates to how to electrify smaller gas powered devices like leaf blowers and grass cutting.

#### **11. Announcements**

- a. Recording of Oct. 27 “Gas Stoves: Health Effects, Pollution & Healthier Alternatives” panel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ePeMo8Z1T8>
- b. Natural gas pollution in your home resources:
  - i. Gas Stoves: Health and Air Quality Impacts and Solutions, <https://rmi.org/insight/gas-stoves-pollution-health/>
  - ii. Effects of Residential Gas Appliances on Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality and Public Health in California, <https://coeh.ph.ucla.edu/effects-residential-gas-appliances-indoor-and-outdoor-air-quality-and-public-health-california>
- c. Connect Arlington, Sustainable Transportation Plan Factbook: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showdocument?id=52987>
- d. Arlington’s Net Zero Action Plan to be released in late December
- e. Watch for Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways: Gardening for Pollinators Survey
- f. Participate in citizen science to support pollinators with The Beecology Project, <https://beecology.wpi.edu/website/home>
- g. Find webinars, other online events at <http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>

## 12. Adjourn